



• Sartori Avenue by Night, From Marcelina Avenue •

to raise funds for the Torrance Relief society and began an annexation campaign.

In 1926 the chamber was active in the movement to create a metropolitan outfall sewer. It continued efforts for an additional elementary school, initiated a movement to acquire a municipal water system, began a campaign for street lighting and conducted research to induce establishment of General Petroleum refineries in Torrance.

#### Brought Companies

DURING 1927 the chamber established first contacts toward establishment of the Doheny-Stone Drill Company in Torrance, successfully culminated in 1928.

Beginning in 1929 the chamber has campaigned to induce local residence of industrial employes. It also aided the D. & M. Machine Works in locating in Torrance.

A review of chamber activities during 1930 shows continuation of the non-resident

employe campaign; efforts to establish a school on Fern avenue, a health center in Torrance, several highway projects, annexation of additional territory, and commercial trade promotion.

Subsequently the chamber of commerce has conducted co-operative programs designed to further the civic, commercial and industrial interests.

#### Chamber Officers

Present officers of the chamber are: B. C. Buxton, president; Alden W. Smith, first vice president and treasurer; E. M. Barber, second vice president; L. J. Gilmeister, secretary.

Directors are: R. R. Smith, Sherwood McIntyre, De Kalb Spurlin, Fred Isaacs and J. W. McQuaid.

The chamber today has 186 members.

But while the chamber of commerce represents the mass action of businessmen and reflects their progress, it hardly tells the whole story of busi-

ness. To do this requires information with respect to such as the postal and financial systems of the city; the growth of utilities and their possibility of service and expansion; and present indications for the business future.

#### Postal Growth

TORRANCE postal affairs have shown a remarkable growth, culminating in the beautiful new postoffice, recently completed and occupied. First unofficial "postmaster" here was Mr. Meagor, who handled the mails as a sideline while employed by the Dominguez Land Corporation. One mail a day was handled, coming as star route service out of Gardena. The postoffice, such as it was, occupied a small niche in the Land Corporation's office.

But a growing city soon demanded better service and Herman Burmaster was appointed postmaster, serving until November 20, 1919, when Alfred Gourcier assumed the

## Industrial Payrolls Reflected in Busy Streets & Stores

through 1924, when receipts were \$25,576.58.

Then ensued a drop to a low in 1926 of \$20,108.13, followed by a rise to a peak of \$31,182.28 in 1929. Business conditions in the nation were reflected by the subsequent decline of receipts here, the low point being reached in 1932, with business of \$20,301.91.

But that Torrance is in the foreground of recovery is shown by the fact that already the greatest postal business ever handled in a single year has been reached, with 1935's total of \$31,466.21 being \$283.93 over the previous high record.

The postal force in Torrance today includes a postmaster,

office. In turn, he held it until February 10, 1934, when the present incumbent, Charles E. Conner, took office.

#### Second-Class Office

WHEN Torrance was incorporated as a city, in 1921, the postal business amounted, for the year, to \$9,388.73. It reached the status of a second-class office July 1, 1922, and showed a steady growth through the period of oil discovery and development



• Torrance National Bank Building



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